

MODERN

COMICS

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COMIC
PUBLICATION

AUGUST
No. 100

10¢

THE ALLURING BUT DANGEROUS
Queen Laria
MEETS HER MASTER IN
BLACKHAWK!





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM



Better schools make better communities



MISS MACY,
PLEASE, I CAN'T
HEAR YOU AND
I CAN'T SEE
YOU.

WELL, SON,
HOW DID
THINGS GO
IN SCHOOL
TODAY?

TOO BAD I CAN'T
HEAR OR SEE THE
TEACHER. I COULD
LIKE SCHOOL IF
THEY'D ONLY GIVE
ME A CHANCE.



WHAT ARE WE
GOING TO DO, DAD?
ALL THE CHILDREN
SAY THE SCHOOL
IS CROWDED. THEY
GO ONLY HALF A
DAY.

IF ALL OUR NEIGHBORS WORK TOGETHER,
WE CAN GET MORE AND BETTER SCHOOLS.
CHILDREN NEED GOOD SCHOOLS. EVERY
COMMUNITY NEEDS PEOPLE WHO
HAVE LEARNED HOW TO WORK
AND BE HAPPY BY GOING TO
SCHOOL.

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR
CHILDREN GROW UP TO BE,
YOU NEED A GOOD
SCHOOL.



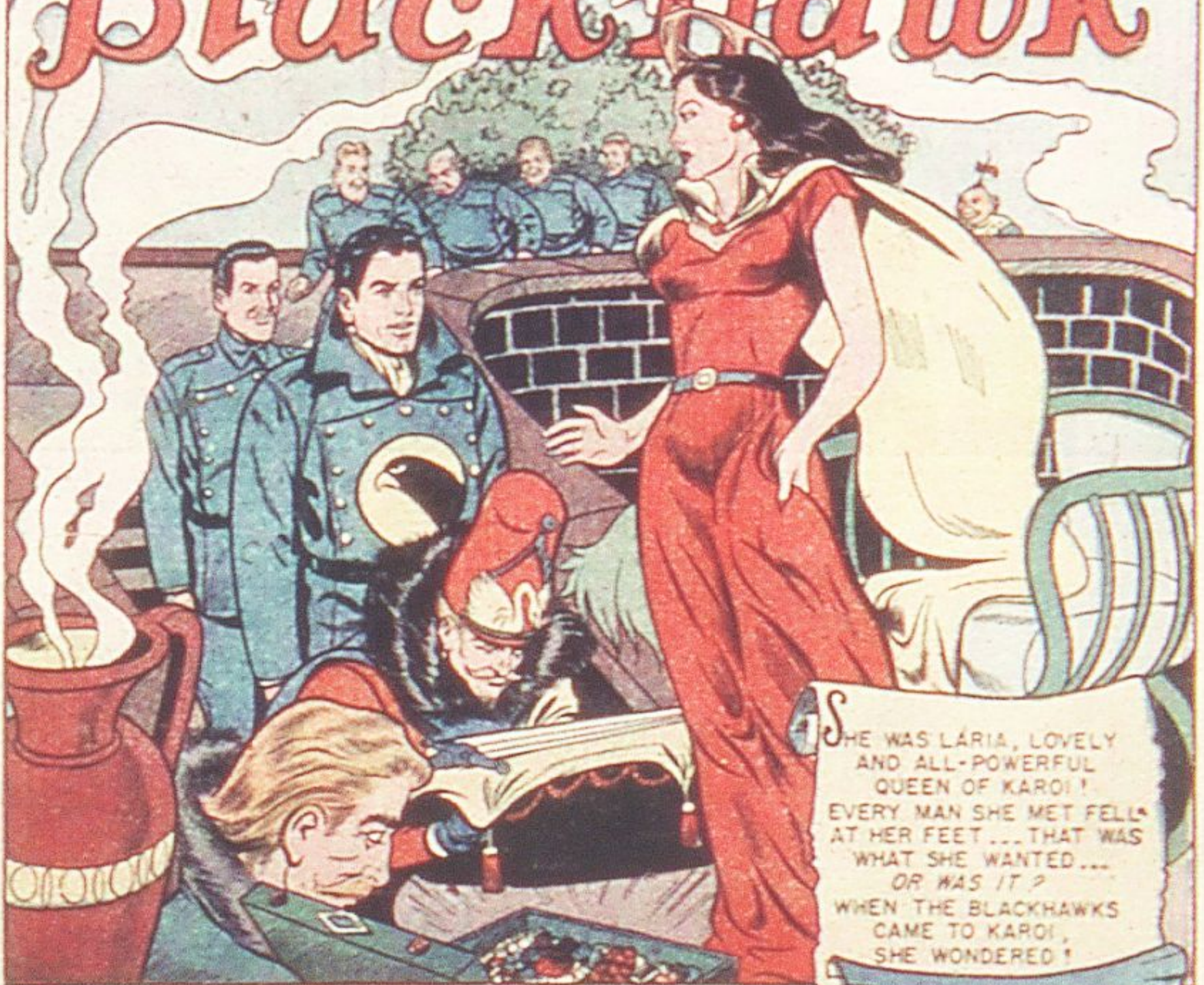
WHEN YOU GROW UP AND
VOTE, YOU WILL NEED
AN EDUCATION.



JERRY
FASANO-

TELL YOUR MOTHER AND
FATHER THEY CAN LEARN
HOW OTHERS WON BETTER
SCHOOLS BY WRITING TO—
NATIONAL CITIZENS COMMISSION
FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2 WEST 45TH STREET
NEW YORK 19 NEW YORK

Blackhawk



SHE WAS LARIA, LOVELY AND ALL-POWERFUL QUEEN OF KAROI! EVERY MAN SHE MET FELL AT HER FEET... THAT WAS WHAT SHE WANTED... OR WAS IT? WHEN THE BLACKHAWKS CAME TO KAROI, SHE WONDERED!

UNTIL RECENTLY, ALL TALES OF KAROI, LAND OF PLENTY AND STRANGE WISDOM WERE CONSIDERED LEGENDS, UNTIL...



WE ARE AN EXPEDITION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONS OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD! WE OFFER PEACE AND COMMERCE TO YOU OF KAROI!

IF YOU WISH PEACE, DEPART AND LEAVE US ALONE!



KAROI HAS EXISTED SINCE TIME'S BEGINNING WITH NO WISH TO KNOW THE OUTER WORLD! ANY ATTEMPT TO CROSS OUR BORDERS WILL BE MET WITH WAR!

WHEN THE NEWS REACHED THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE LEAGUE FOR PEACE...

KAROI SEEMS TO TURN ITS BACK ON THE WORLD! THEY DO NOT WISH TO LISTEN TO OUR OFFERS OF FRIENDSHIP, BLACKHAWK!

WILL YOU SEND ANOTHER EXPEDITION?

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS

THE REPORT IS THAT KAROI IS SURROUNDED BY IMMENSE MOUNTAINS! EVERY FOOT OF BOUNDARY IS GUARDED!

THERE'S STILL THE AIR! NOBODY HAS EVER SUCCESSFULLY FORBIDDEN THAT TO THE BLACKHAWKS!

WE LEAVE AT ONCE! CHUCK, YOU'LL COMMAND THE LEFT WING WITH CHOP CHOP AND OLAF!

ROGER!

ANDRE COMMANDS THE RIGHT WING... WITH HENDRICKSON AND STANISLAUS! I HAVE COMMAND OVER BOTH!

ROGAIR! WE ARE READY!

HIGH OVER HITHERTO UNKNOWN MOUNTAINS, SOAR THE PEERLESS PLANES OF THE BLACKHAWKS...

ONLY RECENTLY WERE PLANES MADE THAT COULD SAFELY CROSS THIS RANGE!

THE COUNTRY OF KAROI MUST BE JUST BEYOND!

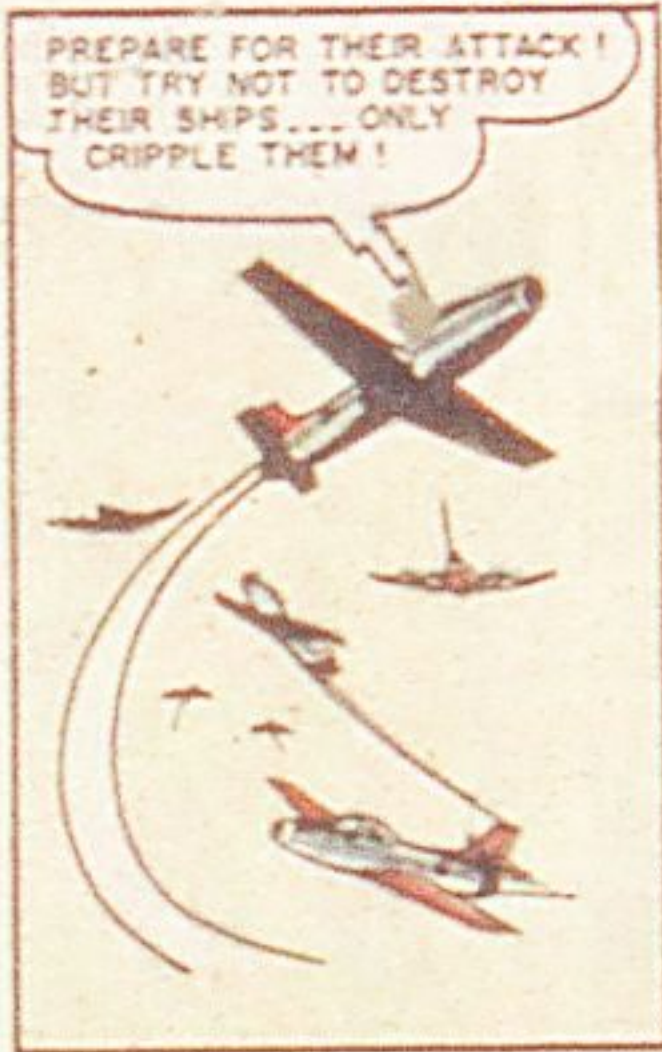
LOOK... A CITY! STRANGE, BUT BEAUTIFUL!

STAND BY FOR TROUBLE, EVERYONE! KAROI SEEMS TO HAVE FIGHTING AIRCRAFT... AND THEY'RE TAKING OFF TO TACKLE US!

HERE COME THE ENEMY CRAFT FROM OUTSIDE! DESTROY THEM ALL!

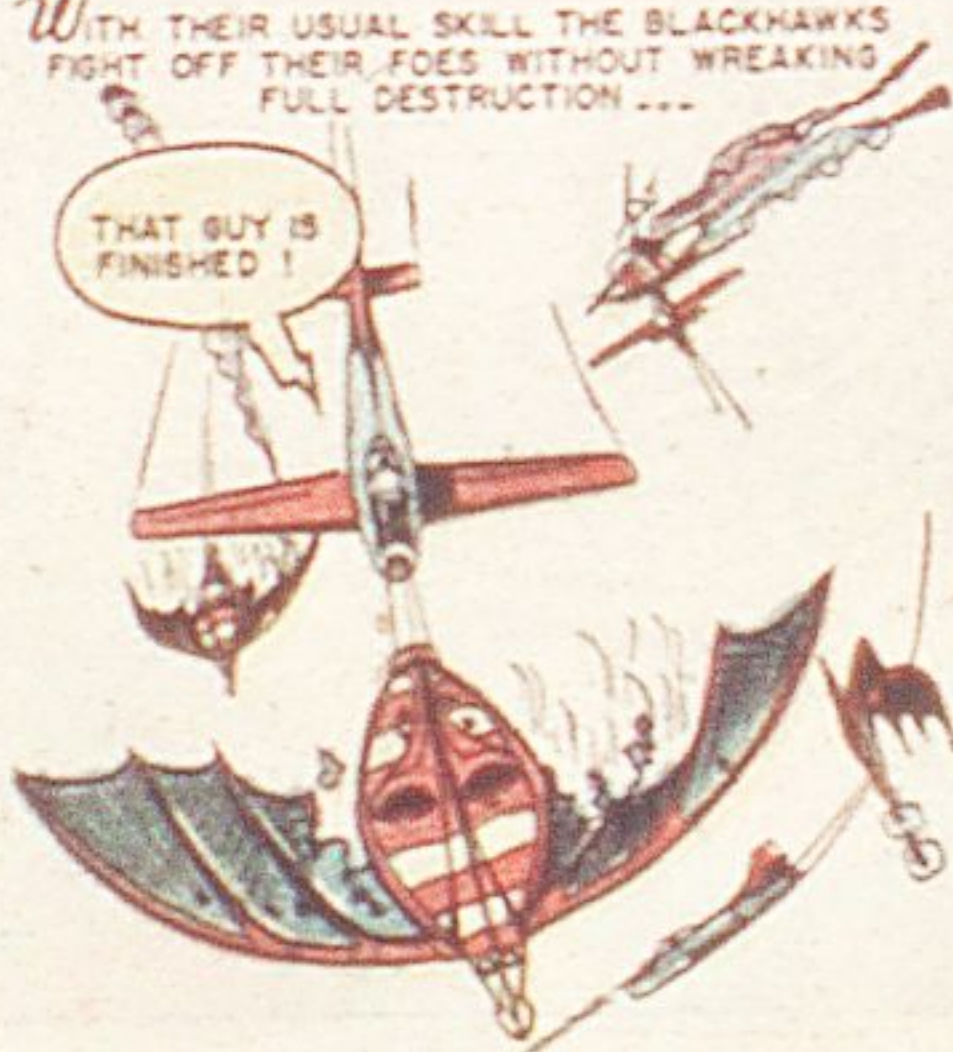


PREPARE FOR THEIR ATTACK! BUT TRY NOT TO DESTROY THEIR SHIPS... ONLY CRIPPLE THEM!



WITH THEIR USUAL SKILL THE BLACKHAWKS FIGHT OFF THEIR FOES WITHOUT WREAKING FULL DESTRUCTION...

THAT GUY IS FINISHED!



BLACKHAWK, THEY'RE ALL LANDING OR RUNNING! WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS?

LAND ON THE PLAIN OUTSIDE THE MAIN GATE OF THE CITY!



WE LAND ALL SAFE! NOW HOW GET INSIDE TOWN?

THEY SEEM TO BE OPENING UP FOR US... BUT NOT VERY CORDIALLY!



THEY HAVE LANDED AND LEFT THEIR STRANGE MACHINES! OUR FORCE SHOULD DESTROY THEM EASILY AT CLOSE QUARTERS!

WE ARE AT YOUR COMMAND, MIGHTY MIRKAN!



HOLD YOUR FIRE, MEN! LET'S SEE IF THERE'S ANY HOPE OF MAKING FRIENDS!

FOOLISH STRANGERS, I AM MIRKAN, CHIEF COUNCILLOR OF QUEEN LARIA! BY HER ORDER, YOU ARE TO BE MADE CAPTIVE!





HA! YOU BAN BRING PLENTY BIG FELLAS TO GRAB US! BUT AY BAN TANK AY BAN AS GOOD MAN AS ANY YOU GOT!

FOOLISH BOASTER! KNOW THAT I AM THE KING OF KAROI'S WRESTLERS! I COULD BREAK YOU LIKE A ROTTEN STICK!



SINCE YOUR FRIEND DEFILES OUR CHAMPION, LET THEM GRAPPLE! IT WILL BE YOUR FIRST LESSON IN HOW STRONG AND VICTORIOUS WE ARE!

IF I WAS A BETTING MAN, MIRKAN, I'D OFFER YOU A FEW ODDS ON OLAF!



DONNERWETTER, STANISLAUS! DER BIG LUMP TRIES DER DIRTY TRICK ON OLAF!

BUT HE DIDN'T GET AWAY WITH IT, HENDRICKSON!



IT WAS MERE GOOD LUCK THAT CAUSED YOUR MAN TO UPSET OUR CHAMPION!

YOU BAN TANK SO? BY YIMMINY, LET HIM GET HIS BREATH! WE TRY ANOTHER FALL, JA?



MAKE STRONG MAGIC, O SORCERER! LET VICTORY BE ASSURED TO OUR STRONG CHAMPION!

PARBLEU! YOU TRY ZE SLEIGHT-OF-HAND, NON? ALORS, LET ME SHOW YOU!



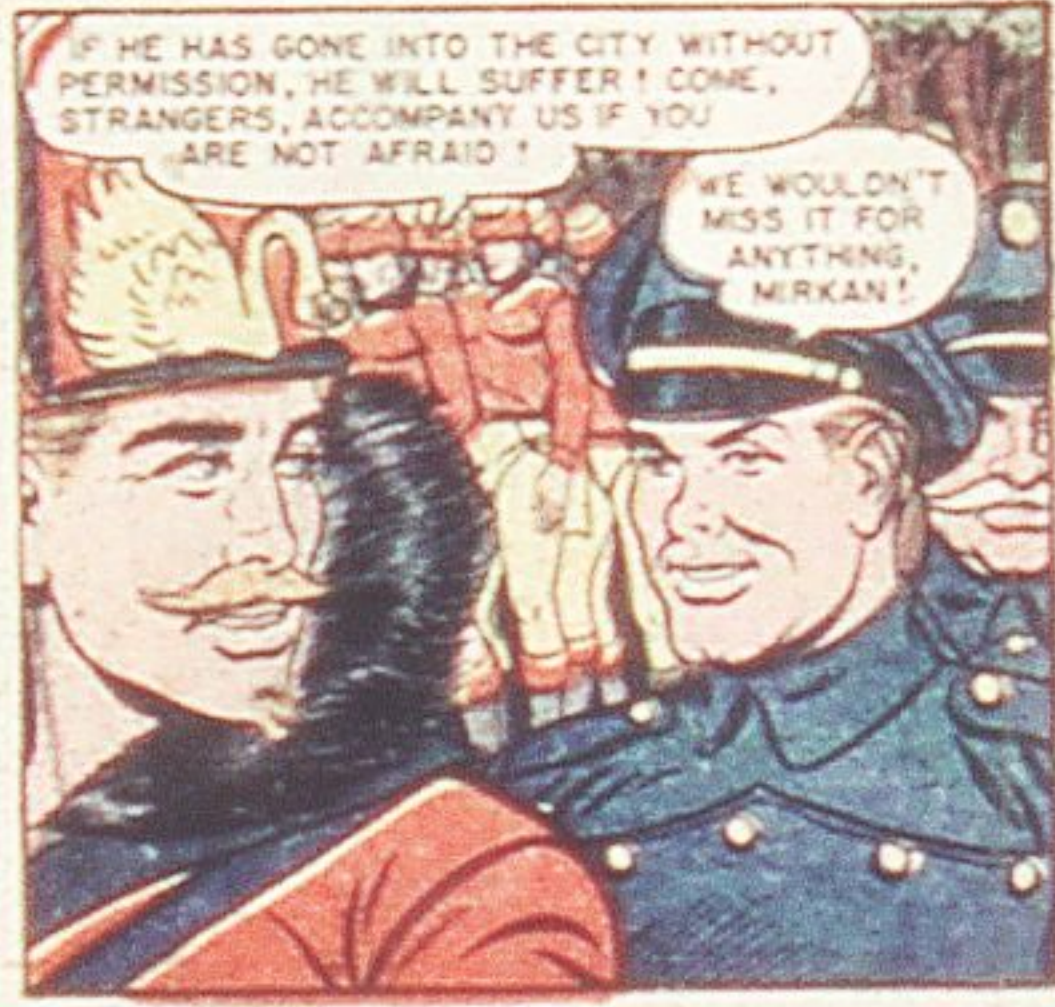
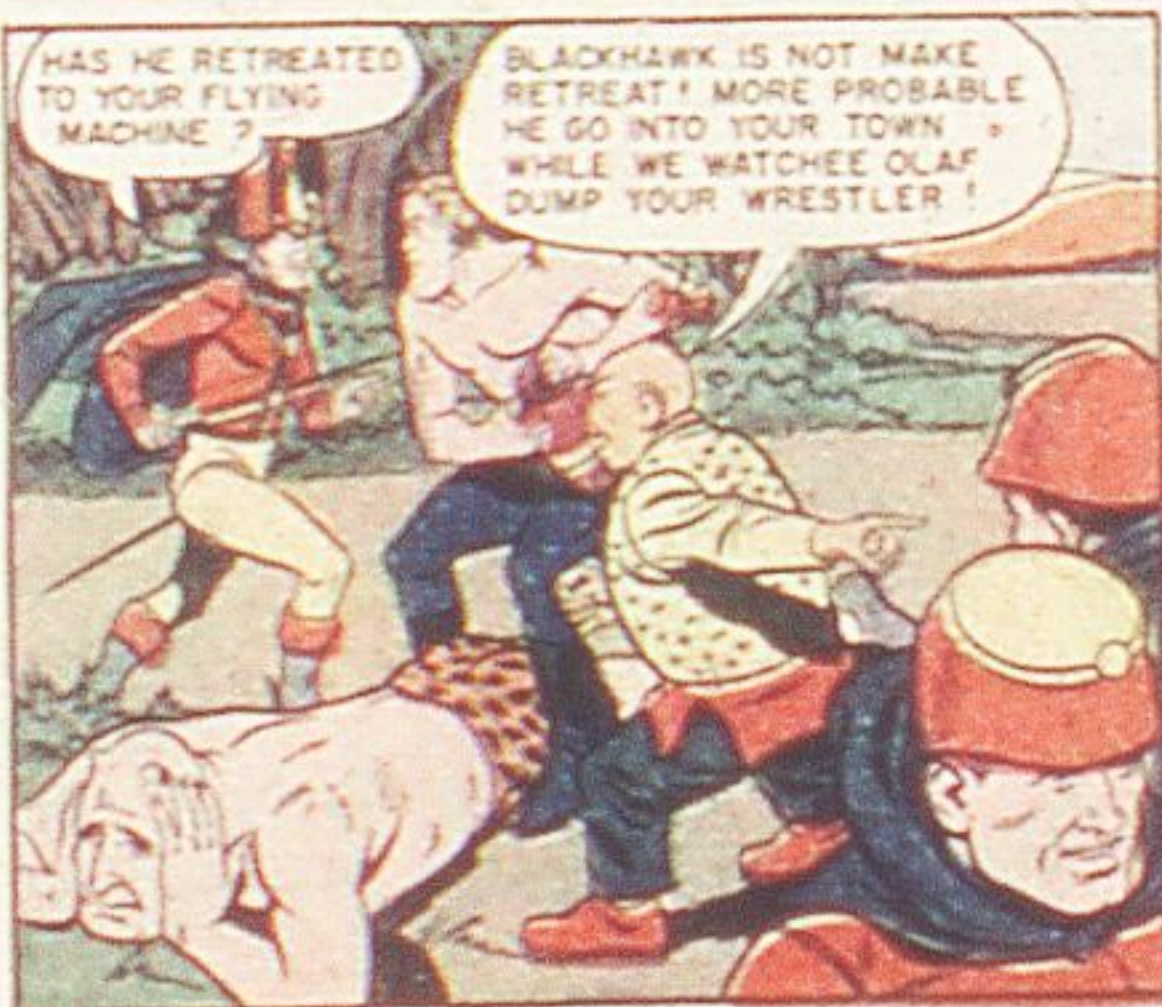
HAVE A CARE, RASH STRANGER! YOU MAY KILL YOURSELF BY MEDDLING WITH MYSTERY!

ZUT ALORS! I KNOW ZE STAGE MAGIC... I LEARNED IT WHEN I WAS BUT A BOY!



YOU WISH ZE VASE BACK? ZEN TAKE IT!

YOU ARE WISE TO LET ME HAVE IT!



MEANWHILE, IN THE CITY...





I'LL DROP DOWN INTO THIS GARDEN UNTIL THE CHASE DIES DOWN! BUT --- WHAT'S HAPPENING BELOW?



DEPART AND LEAVE ME ALONE, MY SERVANTS! I WISH TO THINK OF WHAT PUNISHMENT TO GIVE THOSE STRANGERS MIRKAN WENT OUT TO CAPTURE!

WE LISTEN AND OBEY, MIGHTY QUEEN LARIA!



IT IS A WONDROUS THING TO RULE THE LAND OF KAROI! MY SERVANTS OBEY ME, MY COUNSELLORS AND ARMIES BOW BEFORE ME! BUT SOMETIMES I AM... LONELY!

YOU ARE NOT QUITE ALONE NOW, QUEEN LARIA!



WHO SPOKE?

I DID! TURN AROUND!



AS YOU SAY, MEN MUST BOW BEFORE YOU, PERMIT ME... MY NAME IS BLACKHAWK!

YOUR COURTESY IS ONLY MOCKERY! ARE YOU AWARE THAT IF I RAISE MY VOICE, AN ARMY OF GUARDS WOULD RUN IN HERE TO SLAY YOU!



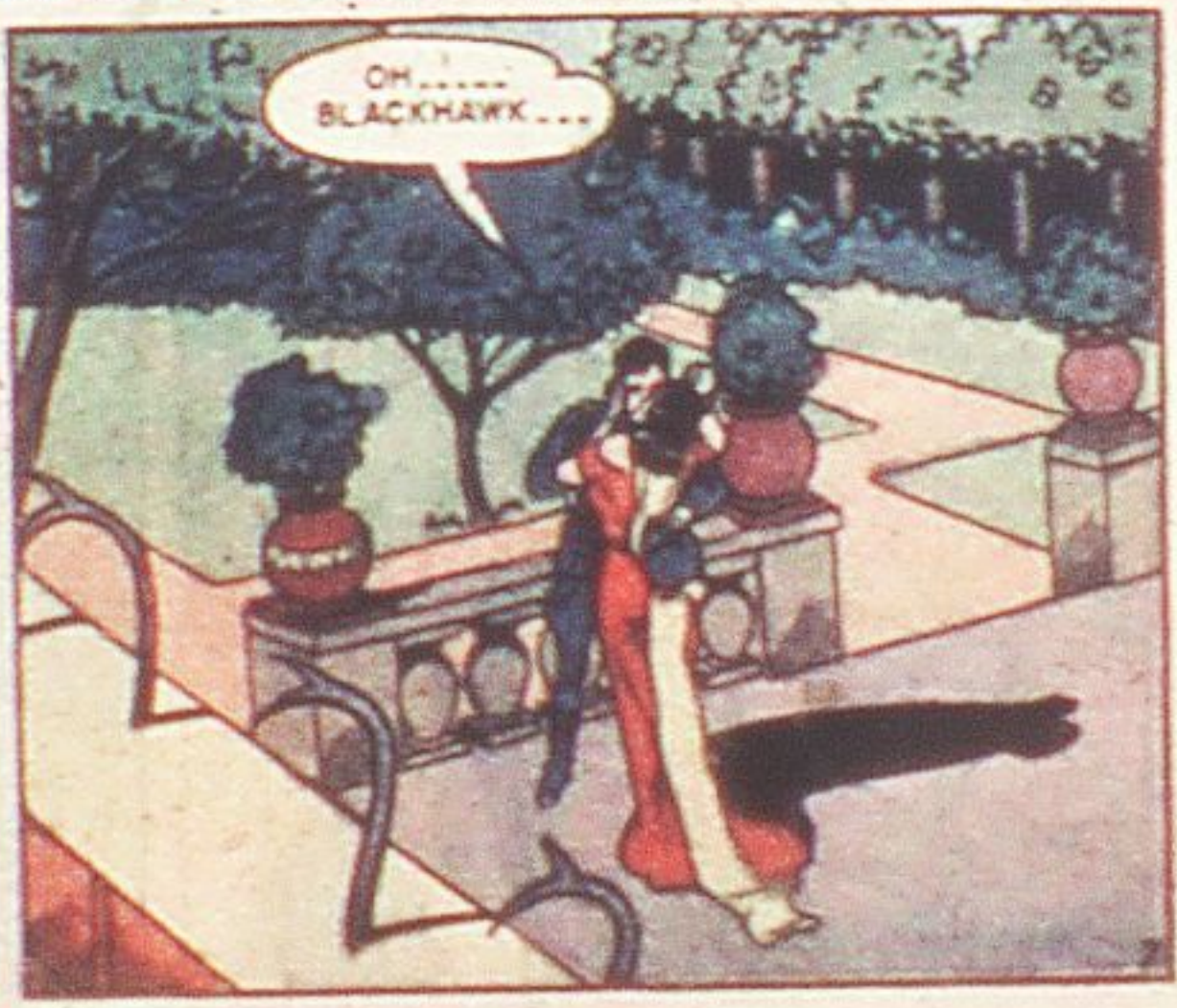
IF YOU ORDER THE DEATH OF EVERY VISITOR, NO WONDER YOU FEEL LONELY AT TIMES!

I AM NOT USED TO HEARING UNASKED ADVICE! I KNOW A BOLD STRANGER, THAT LARIA IS THE LAST OF A LINE OF GREAT QUEENS! NONE DARE APPROACH ME SAVE WITH FACES TO THE EARTH!



I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR DESPISING SUCH WORMS! BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO CRAWL BEFORE YOU! I COULDN'T ADMIRE YOUR BEAUTY FROM THAT POSITION!

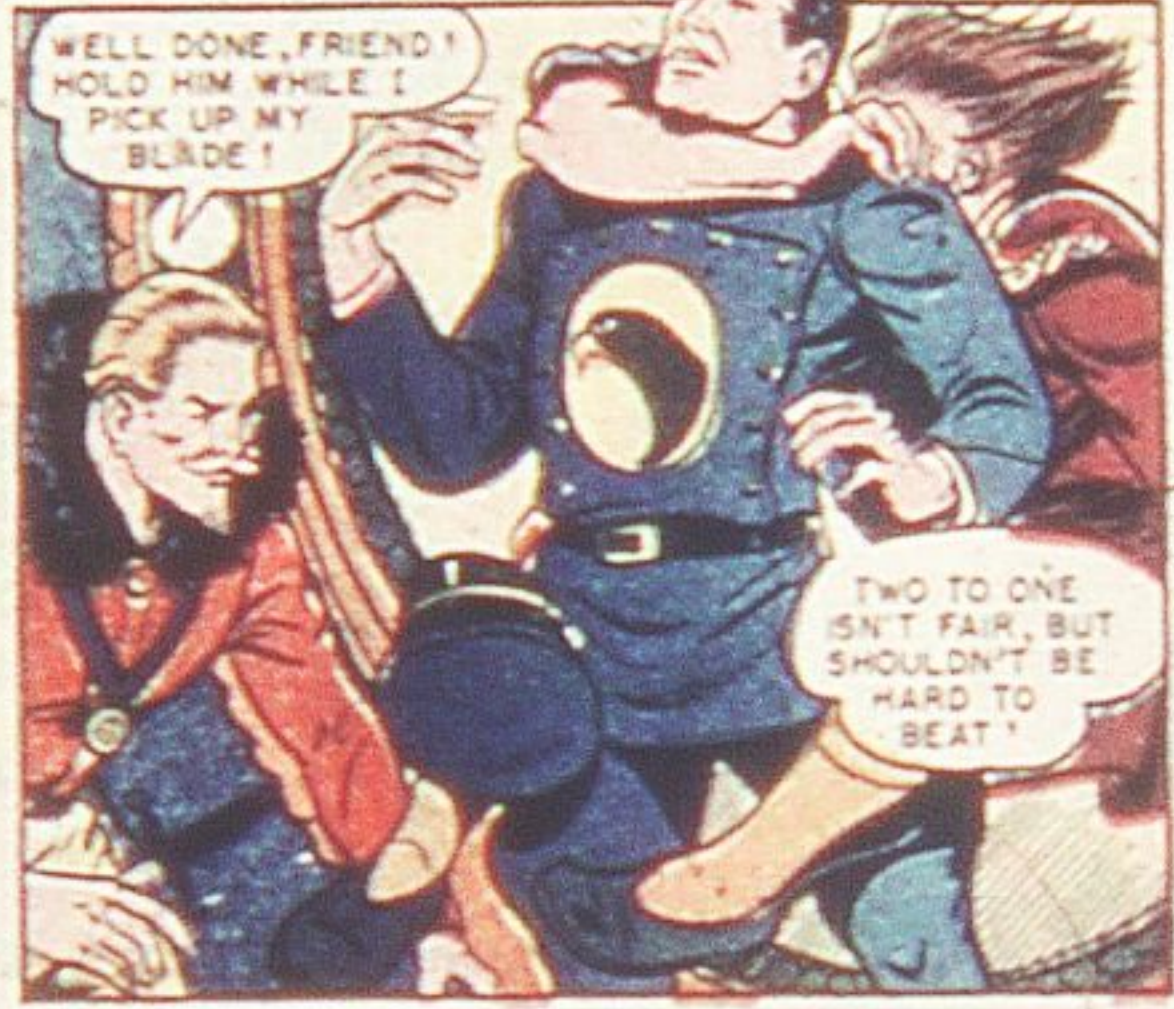
BE WARNED! STAY BACK... DON'T TOUCH ME!





IN THE MAIN AUDIENCE CHAMBER...





THE MIGHTY CLANGING SIGNAL CARRIES FROM STREET TO STREET...

BOM-BOM-BOM!

QUICK! FLEE TO SAFETY!

AND I'LL WARN THE CITY!

THE GONG IN THE PALACE! A CALL TO SUMMON EVERY ARMED MAN!

WE'LL WAIT A MOMENT FOR THE OTHERS... THEN ADVANCE!

TURN OUT THE GUARD! FORM FOR ADVANCE ON THE PALACE!

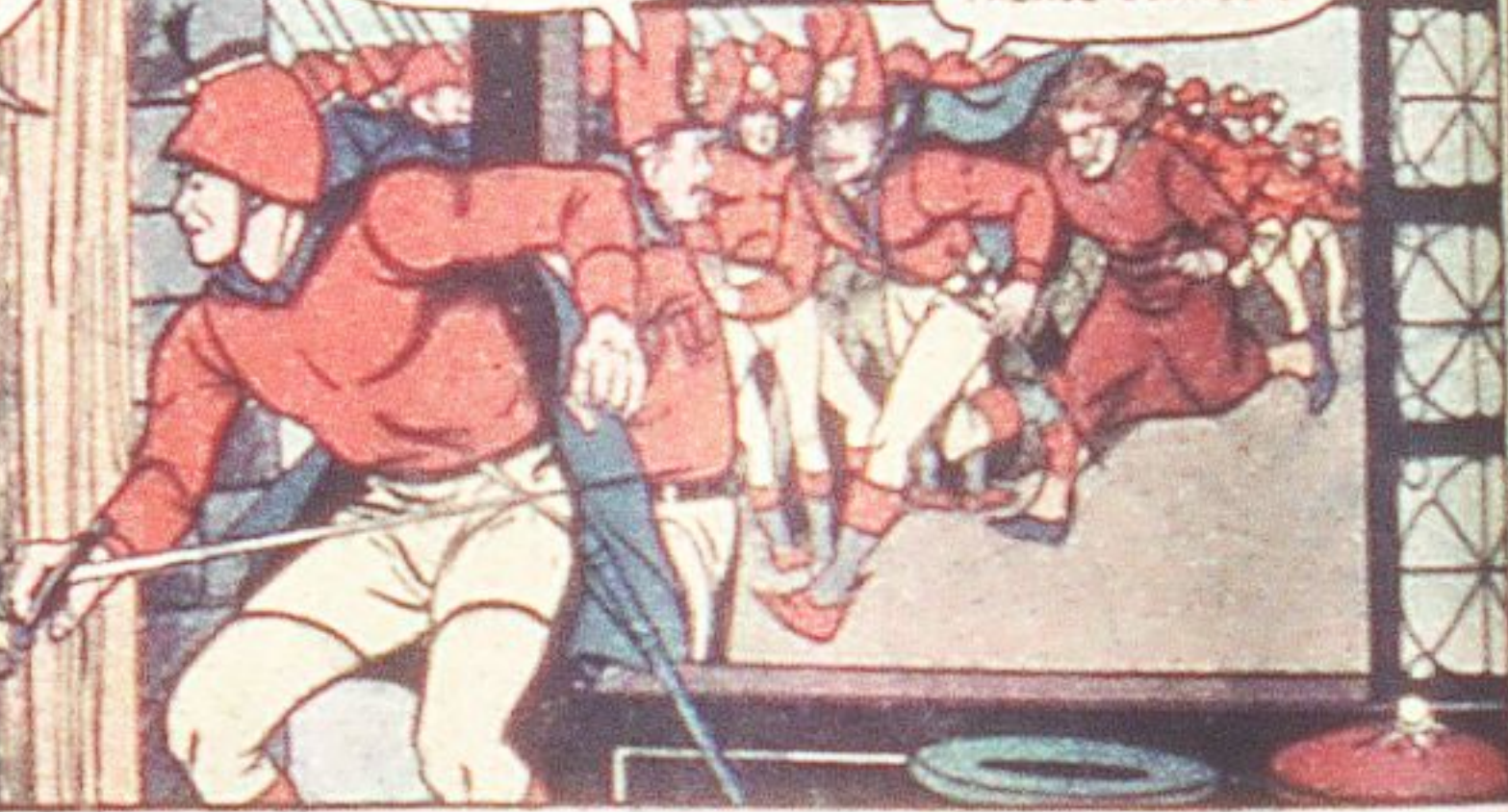


LEAVE YOUR SHOP, TRUE MEN OF KAROI! THE TOWN IS SUMMONED TO MEET DANGER AT THE PALACE!

WE COME AT ONCE!

NOBLE MIRKAN! WHAT HAS HAPPENED AT THE PALACE?

AN INVASION OF BOLD STRANGERS WITH SUPREME FIGHTING METHODS! THEY HAVE OVERPOWERED THE PALACE GUARDS!



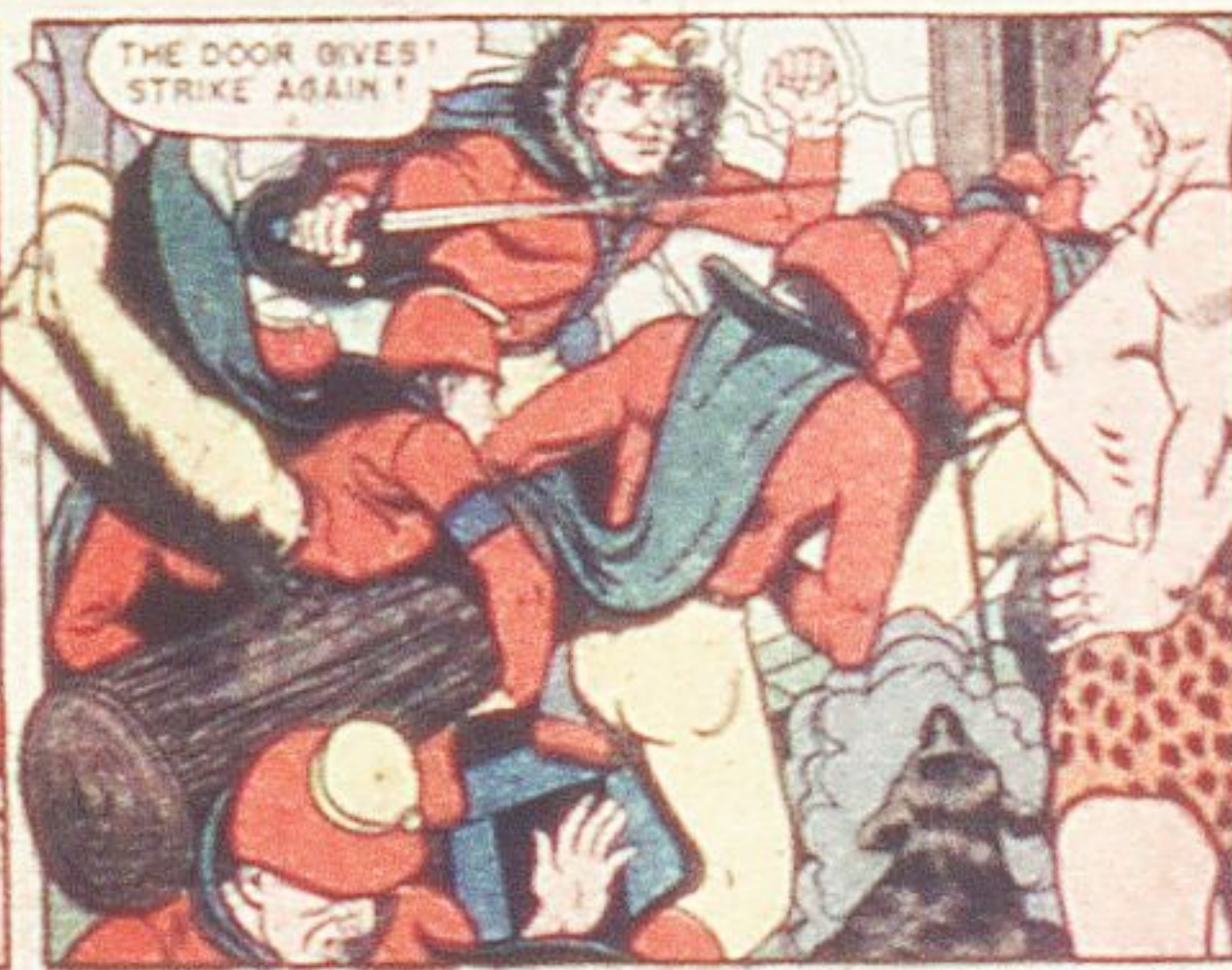
WHATEVER THEIR SKILL, WE WILL FIGHT THEM TO SAVE OUR BELOVED QUEEN LARIA!

WELL SPOKEN! RALLY HUNDREDS OF MEN! WE CAN CRUSH THE DEVILS BY SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS!

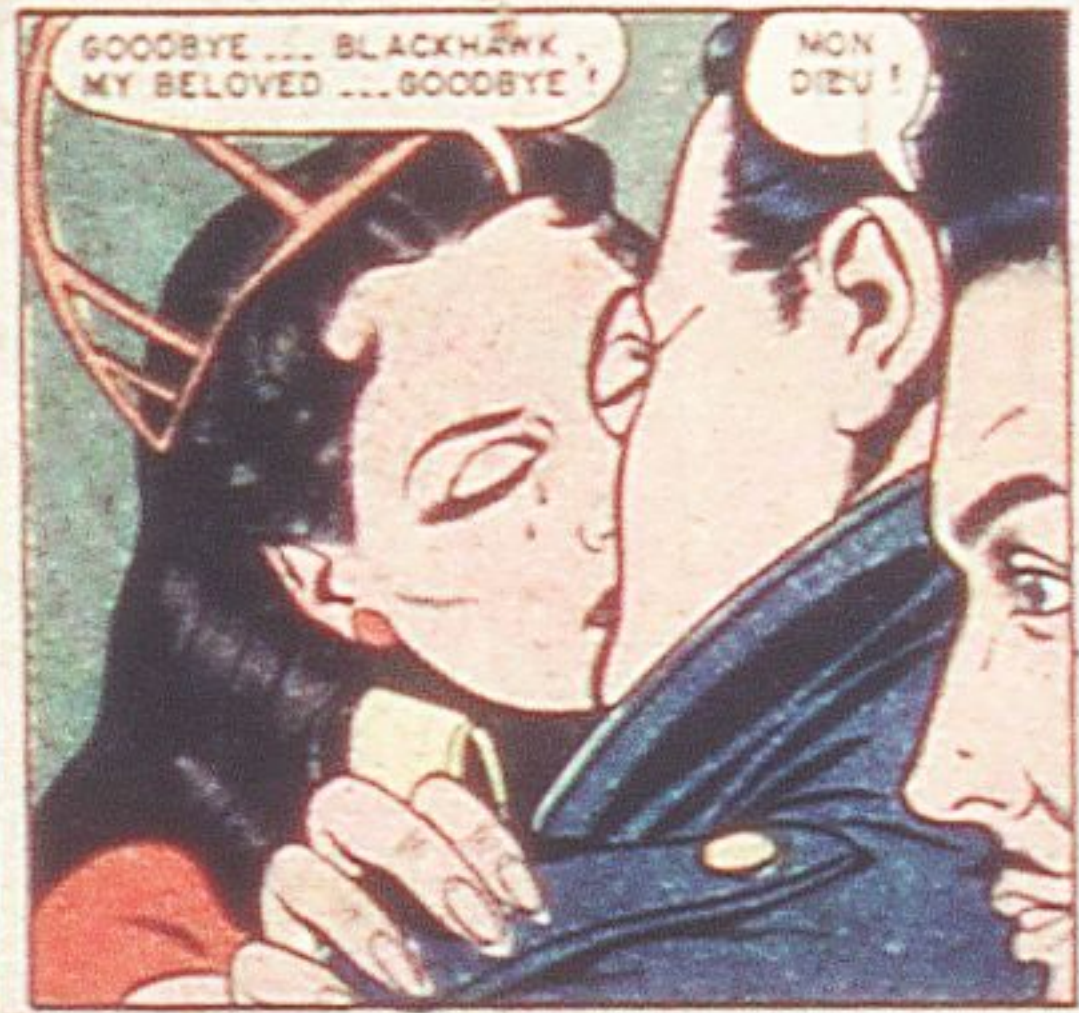
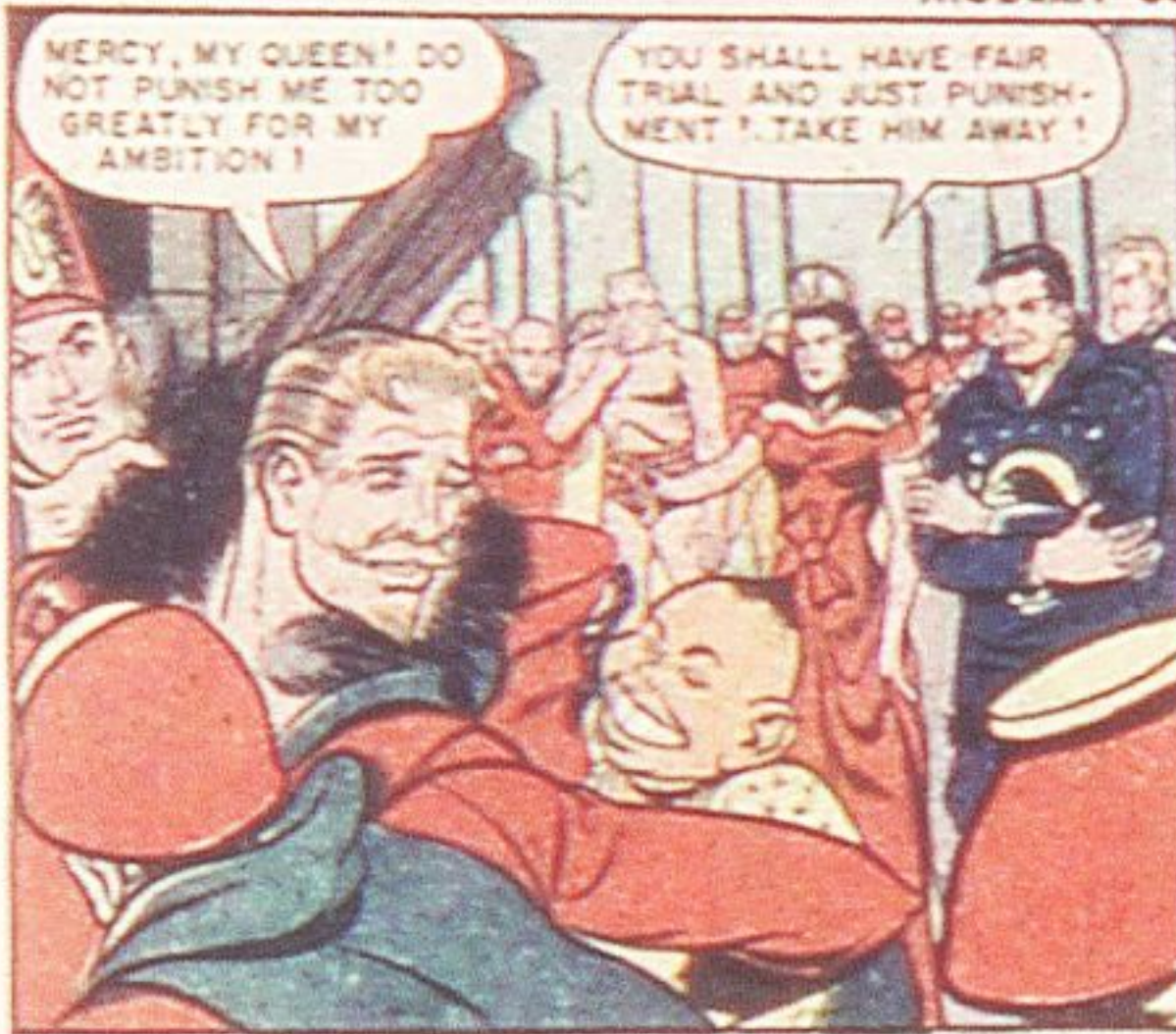
SORRY TO BE LATE FOR THE MAIN EVENT, BUT I'LL HELP CLEAN UP!

WE CAN FIGHT NO MORE! FLY, CONRADES!









TORCHY

TORCHY TODD
AND HER ROOMMATE
TESS PARKER DON'T
INVITE TROUBLE!
IT JUST WALKS
IN WITH TESS'S
BOY FRIEND,
ED TRACY!

HEY, LOOK!
HOW'D YOU
LIKE TO HAVE
A PET LIKE
THAT?

I'D LOVE
IT! WOOO,
WOOO!



HI, BABES! I GOT A
BIG DEAL ON TO
MAKE FIFTY BUCKS
THIS AFTERNOON!

FIFTY IN ONE
AFTERNOON?
GEE, ED,
WHERE?



AT CONN'S CARNIVAL,
TAKIN' OVER FOR LIMBO,
THE LION TAMER!

LION TAMER?
YOU? WHAT
HAPPENED TO
LIMBO...DID THE
LIONS HAVE HIM FOR
LUNCH?





MR. CONN? ED TRACY! I CALLED TO SAY I'LL TAKE OVER FOR LIMBO TODAY! ONLY THING IS... I'LL BRING MY OWN LION!



FIRST THING WE GOTTA DO IS VISIT THE COSTUMER TO GET YOUR LION SKIN!

I HOPE IT FITS! I HATE TO LOOK SLOPPY!



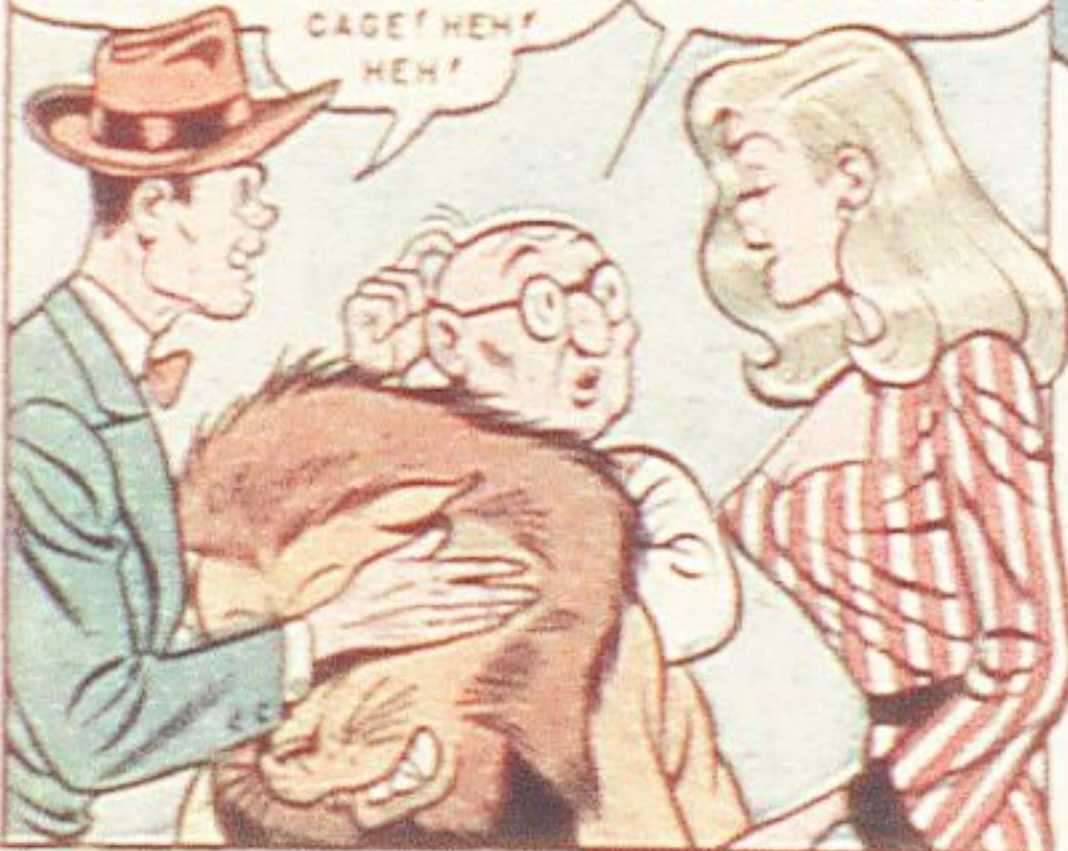
WE'D LIKE A LION COSTUME FOR THE LADY!

IT'S A CRIME TO HIDE SUCH BEAUTY UNDER AN OLD HIDE BUT, IF THAT IS WHAT YOU WANT...



DON'T BOTHER TO WRAP IT! SHE'LL BE PUTTING IT ON AS SOON AS I GET HER TO HER CAGE! HEH! HEH!

I MEET THE ODDEST PEOPLE IN THIS BUSINESS!



I'LL HAVE THE ANIMAL CAGE SET UP BEHIND THE TENT! YOU DRESS AND GET INTO IT! WHEN THEY'VE ROLLED IT INSIDE, WALK ON ALL FOURS INTO THE ARENA AND DO WHAT I SAY!



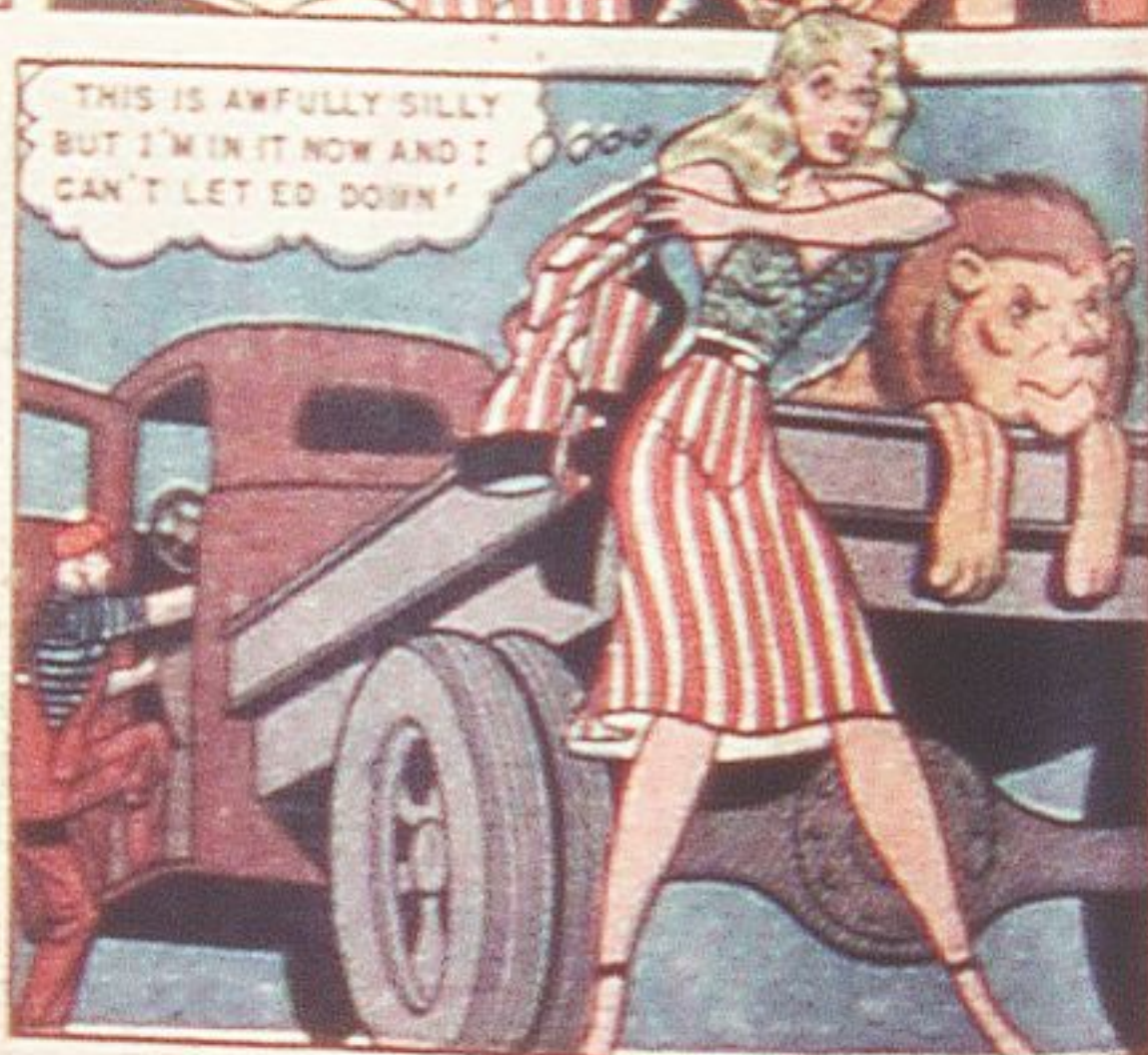
SURE, ED! AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING!

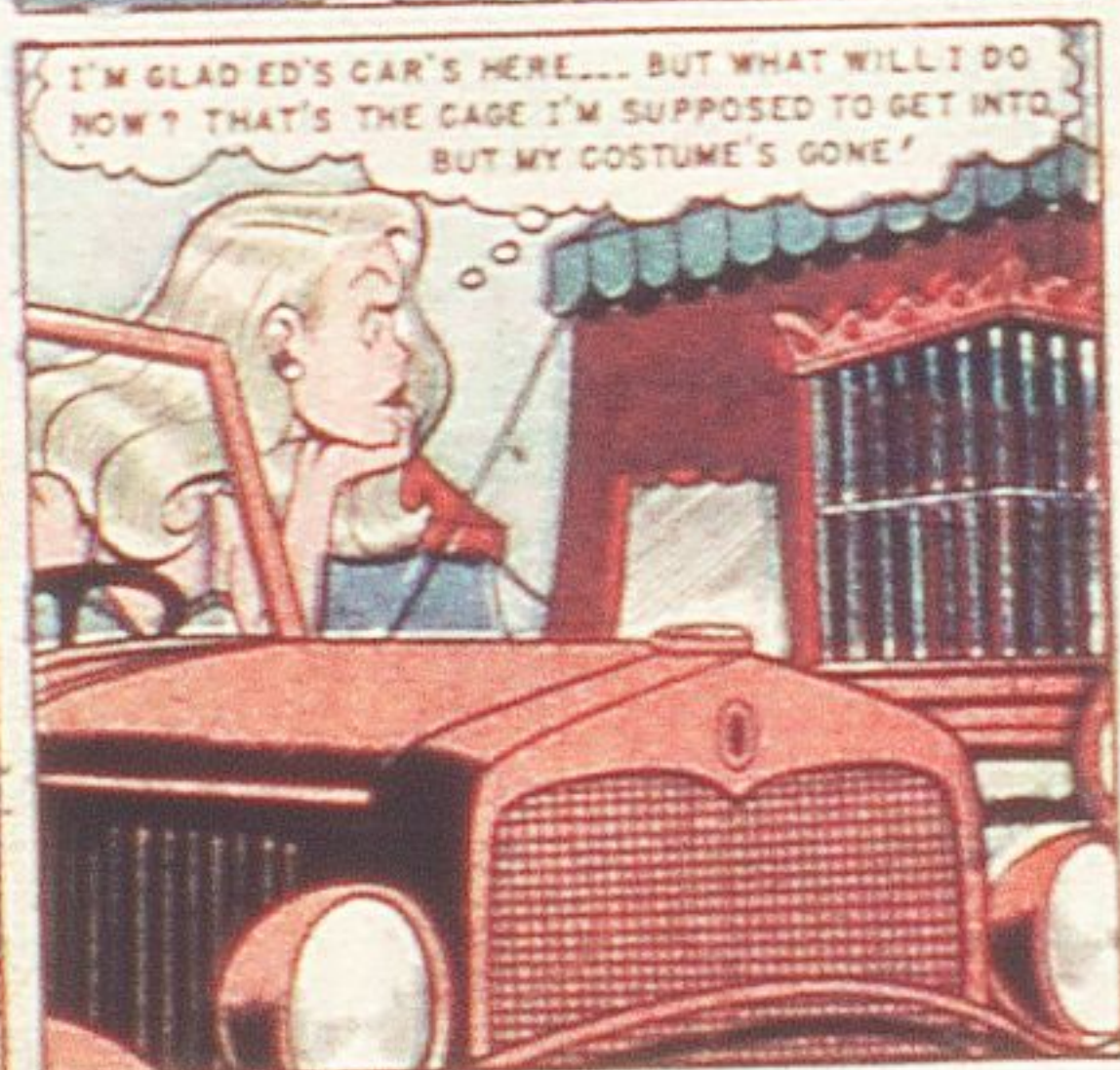
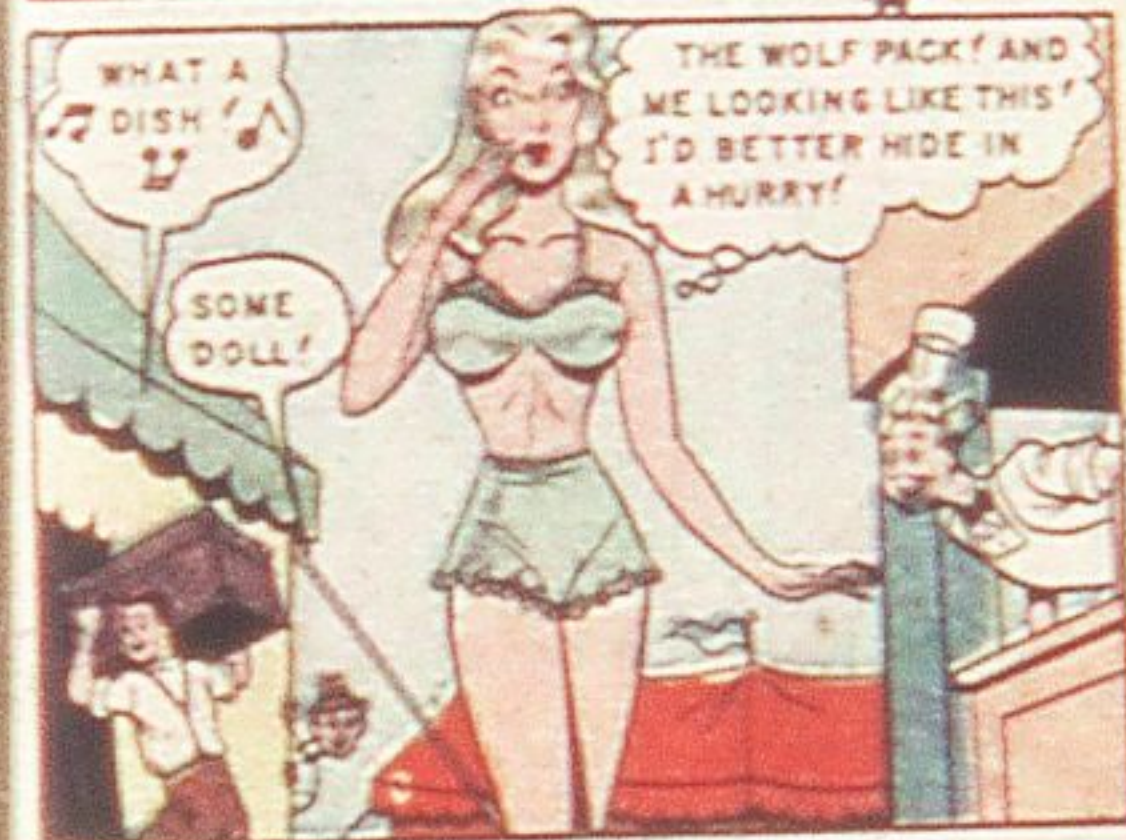
I GUESS I CAN DRESS HERE WITHOUT BEING NOTICED!

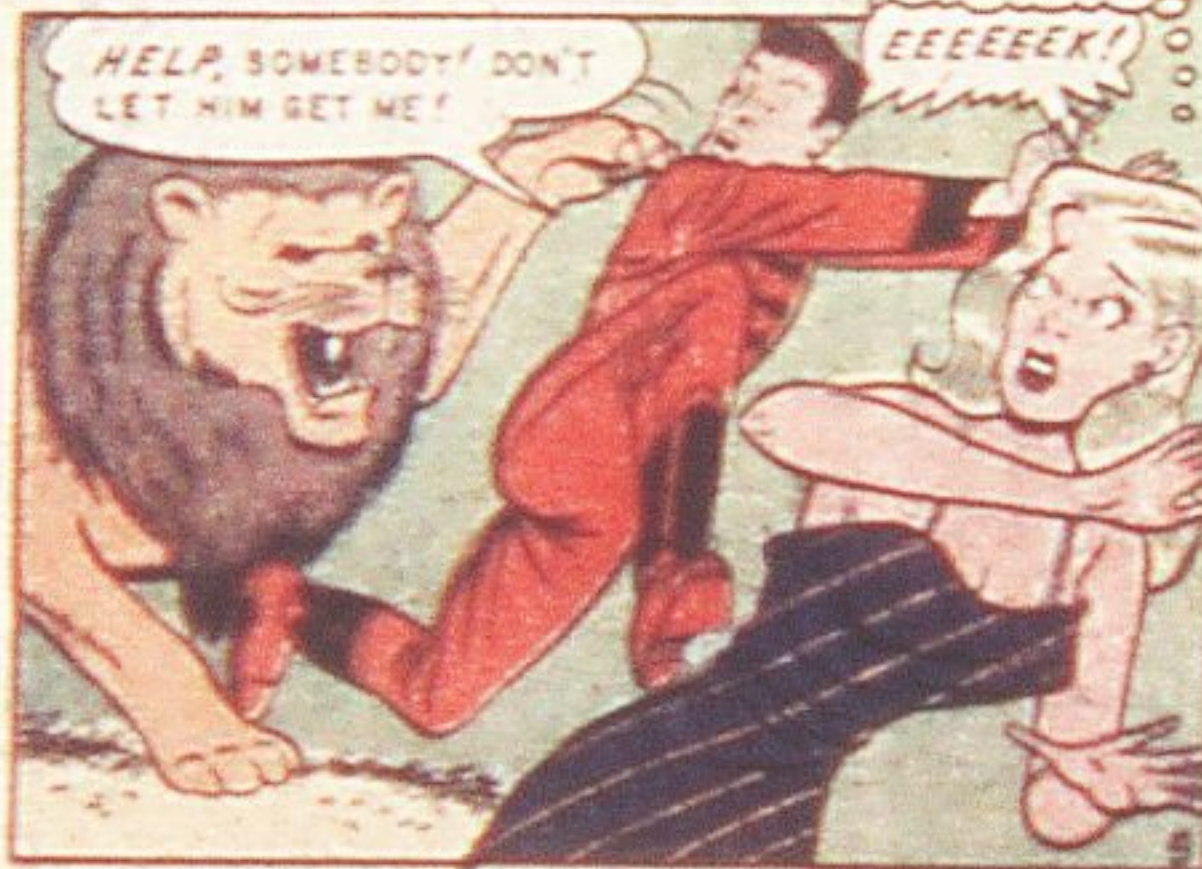
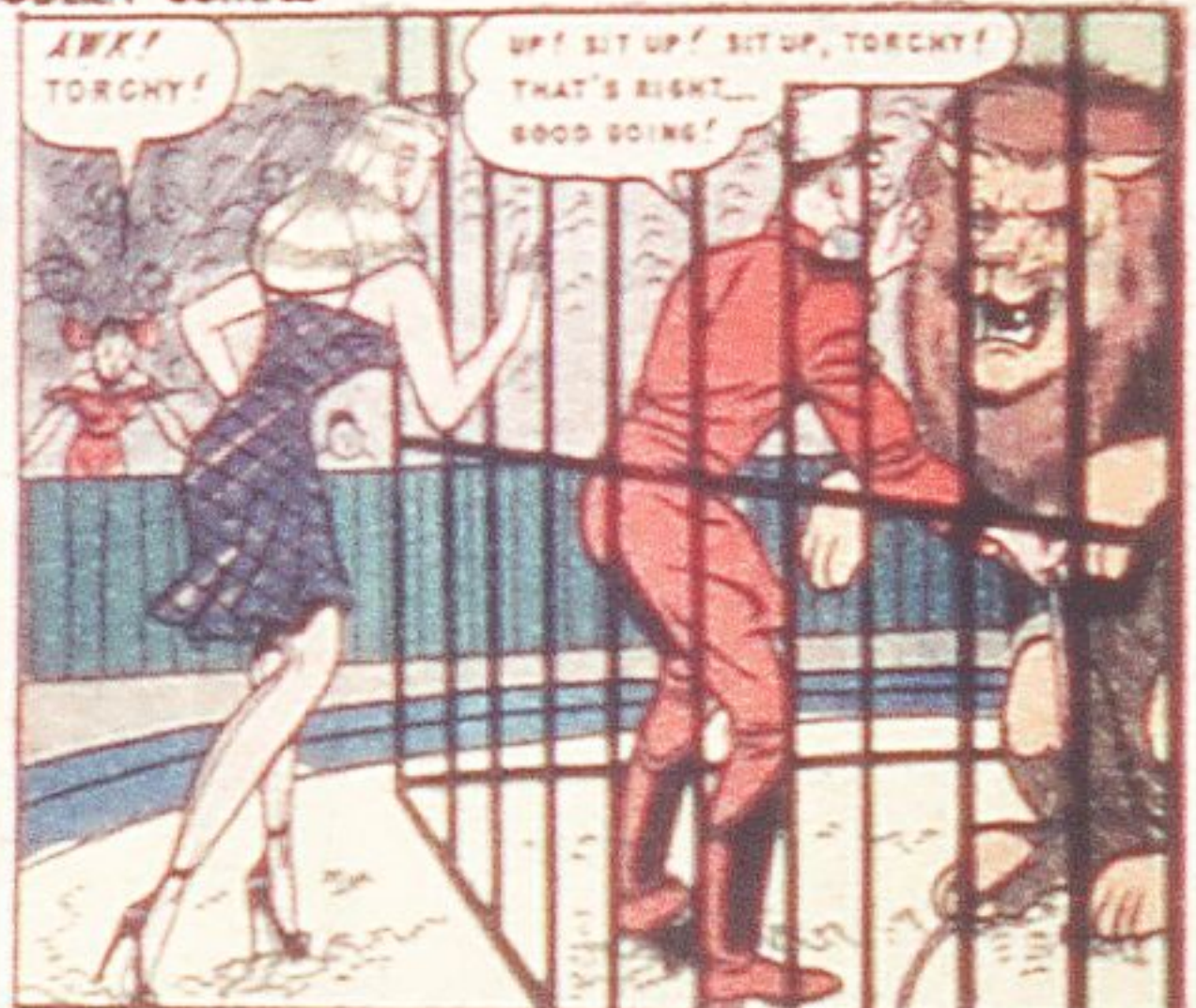
I'LL GO GET INTO LIMBO'S OUTFIT! IT'S ALMOST SHOW TIME! SEE YOU INSIDE!

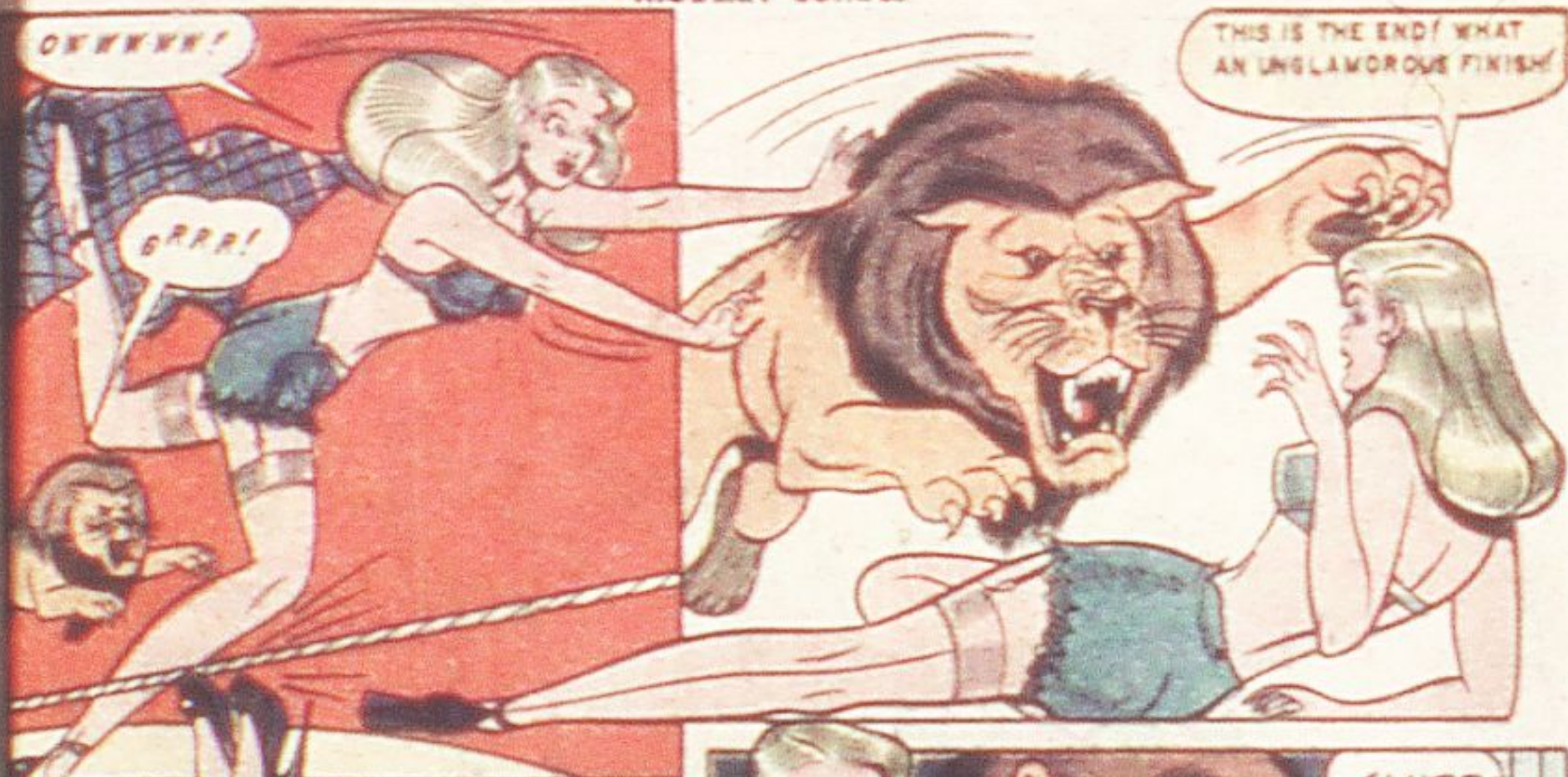


THIS IS AWFULLY SILLY BUT I'M IN IT NOW AND I CAN'T LET ED DOWN!



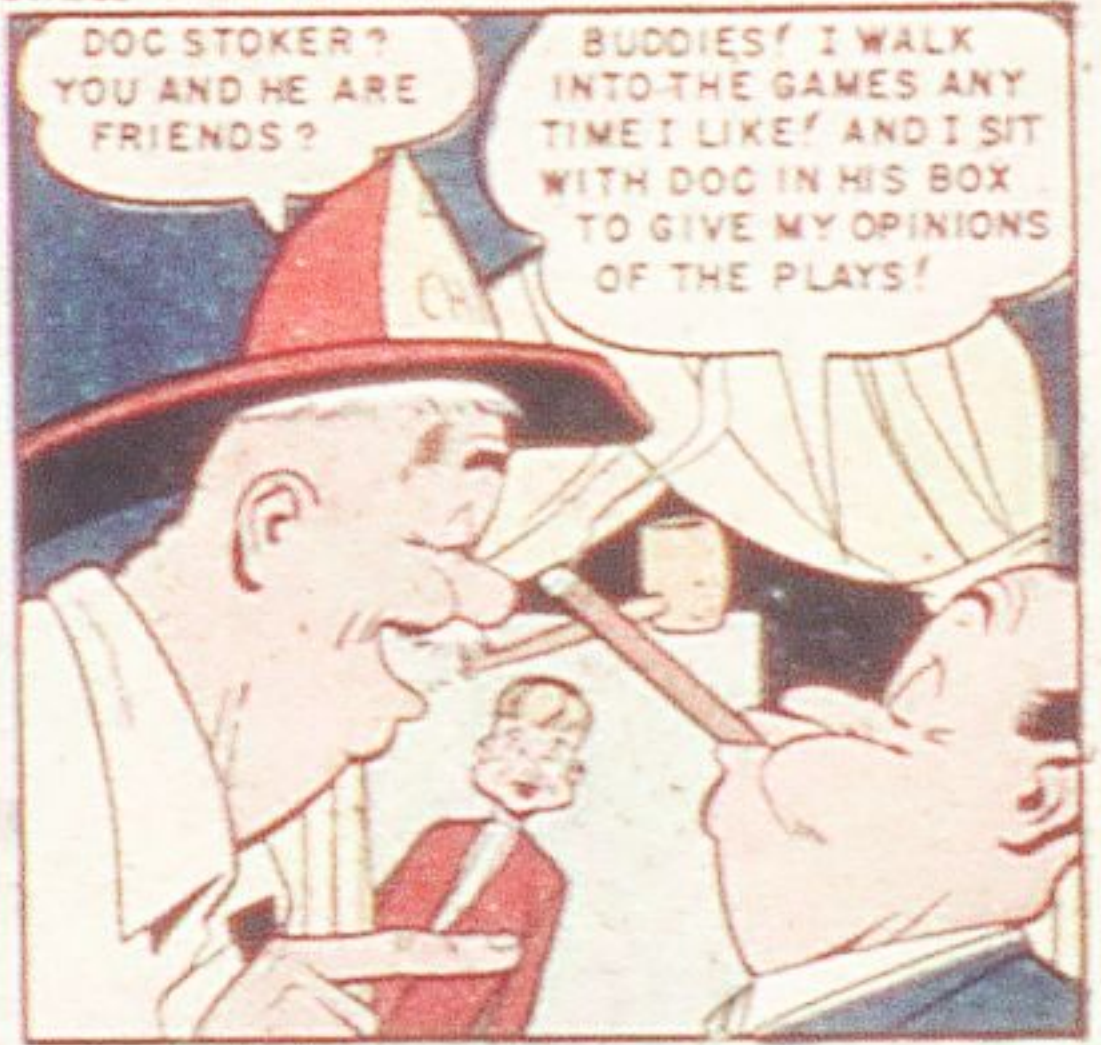




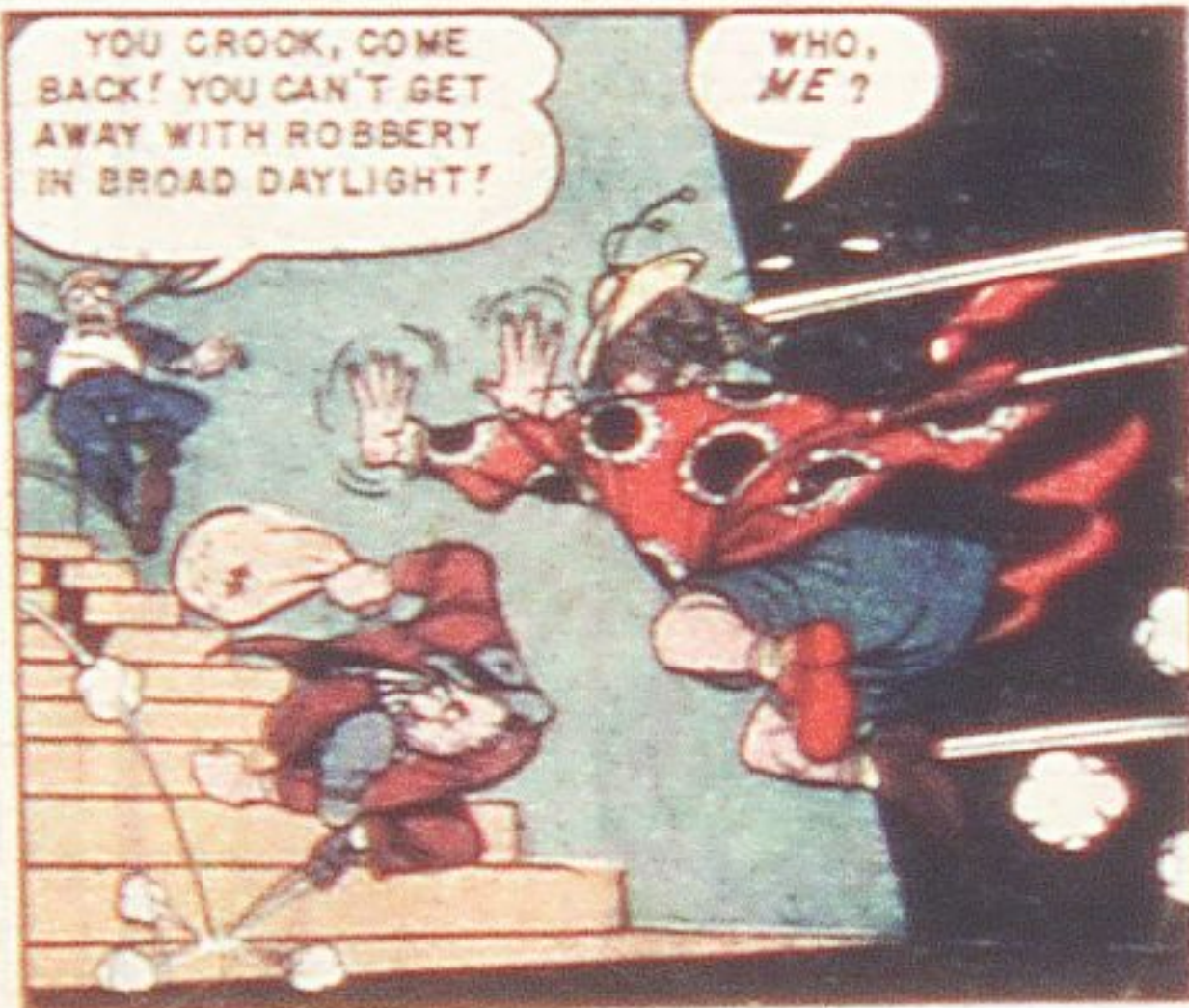


Will Bragg











THAT MAN WAS GETTING AWAY WITH THE GATE RECEIPTS SO YOU'VE DONE ME A GREAT FAVOR! I'M DOC STOKER!

DOD STOKER, THE OWNER OF THE BALL TEAM?



I... I THOUGHT AT FIRST YOU WERE A WOMAN!

GOSH, I'VE GOT TO EXPLAIN THIS OUTFIT SOME WAY! I CAN'T TELL THE TRUTH! GULP I'D BETTER MAKE IT GOOD!



THIS GUY'S A DESPERADO! I... ER... DIDN'T DARE REVEAL MY TRUE IDENTITY... TOO DANGEROUS! I DISGUISED MYSELF...

A DARING PIECE OF STRATEGY, AND I WANT TO REWARD YOU IN ANY WAY I CAN, MR. - MR.



BRAGG! WILL BRAGG! HEH, HEH! HOW ABOUT... ER... GIVING ME A SEASON PASS TO THE GAMES AND LETTING ME SIT IN YOUR PRIVATE BOX ON OCCASIONS?

BY ALL MEANS, BRAGG! THAT'S LITTLE TO ASK!



JUST ONE THING MORE! DON'T... ER... BREATHE A WORD OF THIS! YOU KNOW, HOW THESE UNDERWORLD GANGS ARE... PFFFT! CURTAINS!

THAT'S TRUE! YOU'D BETTER GET HOME AND CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES BEFORE YOU'RE RECOGNIZED!



LATER... JUST AS I THOUGHT, THE BIG BUM HASN'T SHOWN UP! I KNEW THERE WASN'T A WORD OF TRUTH TO... BRAGG!

MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO SEE MY SEASON PASS, SWENSON! AND HAND OVER THE TWENTY! I'M GONNA SIT IN THE BOX WITH DOC STOKER!



HE DOES KNOW DOC STOKER!

THEN I'LL BET HE REALLY WAS A BIG LEAGUER!

I'LL BET HE'S THE LUCKIEST LIAR THAT EVER LIVED! BUT I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PROVE IT!

RAT IN A TRAP

FROM his luxurious apartment, Grido could hear the earth-shaking thunder of the jet planes, and over the roofs, a great mushroom of ugly crimson smoke rolled upward. An arrow of planes zoomed up and the last rays of the setting sun touched the Blackhawk emblem on their wings.

At the open window, Grido watched the Blackhawk planes vanish. His evil face was gray with fear.

Behind him Lucifera, lovely and evil, said softly, "So it is over, Grido?"

"All over," he panted hoarsely. "Those cursed Blackhawks. They drove back the Rebels and exploded The Bomb out there. The blast must have wiped out the Rebel army."

"And now," Lucifera said, and her lovely lip curled, "your scheme of conquest failed and you are helpless."

Grido moaned, "They'll be after me, now. Blackhawk knows, I tell you. He knows it was my scheme to wipe out those stupid leaders who wanted a democracy."

"But can he prove it?" Lucifera asked softly. "If the rebels were destroyed, you are safe. No one else could betray you."

Grido sank in his chair, eyes widening. "You're right, my dear. Blackhawk has no proof. I have nothing to fear. Let them come."

There was a sudden commotion outside the door. The voice of the sentry cried, "Halt! Stand back or..."

The voice died in a sharp, meaty impact. The door burst open and the sentry came in. He came in backward, his eyes glazed, his gun falling from limp hands.

From the doorway, Blackhawk said quietly, "For a man who calls himself a friend of the people, you employ strange guards. When this one wakes up, warn him not to point his gun at peaceful visitors."

"Blackhawk," Grido mumbled, "I—we are honored. You know Lucifera?"

"Only by reputation," Blackhawk said, bowing. "As I am sure you know these men who accompany me. Your little scheme has failed, Grido. We exploded The Bomb you had made and it destroyed nothing but your stooges."

"My stooges?" Grido asked, grinning. "Why Blackhawk, surely you can't think I had anything to do with the Rebellion. I was here, leading the city's defenses."

"Grido," Blackhawk said coldly, "the Rebellion was your idea to destroy those who wanted a democracy without implicating yourself."

"But you can't prove it," Grido leered. "If you harm me, the world will think the Blackhawks attack the innocent." He stood up. "Here I stand, unarmed, defenseless. Now is your chance to destroy me."

Blackhawk smiled thinly. "We have no intention of attacking you. We'll let you destroy yourself. You're caught in your own evil trap, though you haven't realized it yet. Farewell."

Bowing, the Blackhawks filed out. Grido stared after them. He whispered hoarsely, "Blast those fiends! What are they up to?"

"Oh," Lucifera cried sharply, "you are nothing

but a snivelling rat. Don't you recognize a bluff when you hear it?"

"Blackhawks don't bluff," Grido whispered, chewing his lips. "I tell you, they've got me and they know it. If they discover my plans for world domination..." His voice trailed off.

Lucifera stood up. "I'm clearing out before you go all to pieces, Grido." She went to the wall and pushed aside a drape, revealing a hidden safe. "But before I go, I want these secret papers destroyed. If the Blackhawks knew what was in here, you'd really be in danger."

"Yes," Grido babbled frantically. "Those papers reveal our connection with the Rebellion. We must burn them at once."

He pushed her aside and worked the dial with shaking fingers. Presently the heavy door swung outward. Grido reached in and snatched out a thin sheaf of documents. A wild cry of terror tore from his lips. "Look! Their mark! Their symbol!"

There, on the top document was the mark of the Blackhawks. Lucifera snatched the packet, pawing through it. Each of the top secret papers bore that same weird emblem of universal justice.

"That's what they meant," Grido was moaning. "They knew all the time."

"It's impossible," Lucifera cried wildly. "No one knows the combination of that safe but you and me. We were together when the papers were locked away."

Suddenly Grido pointed a shaking finger at Lucifera. "You! You betrayed me! You sold me out to the Blackhawks."

"You're crazy!" Lucifera shrieked, her eyes blazing. "You must have sold me out."

"I should never have trusted you," Grido babbled, "but you'll never live to betray me again."

He whipped out a gun. Suddenly, Lucifera also pulled out a gun, and it was spitting flame.

Clutching at his breast, Grido fell to the floor. The documents with the emblem of the Blackhawks scattered from his limp hand.

Down in the courtyard, the Blackhawks heard the shots. A moment later Lucifera darted from a side door of the palace. Olaf cried, "Blackhawk, dot evil woman is escaping."

"Let her go," Blackhawk said quietly. "There is no hiding place on earth for her guilt."

They watched her run toward the airport. A few moments later her private plane leapt into the reddish cloud and vanished. A moment later it came tumbling out, down and down until a distant crash marked its destruction.

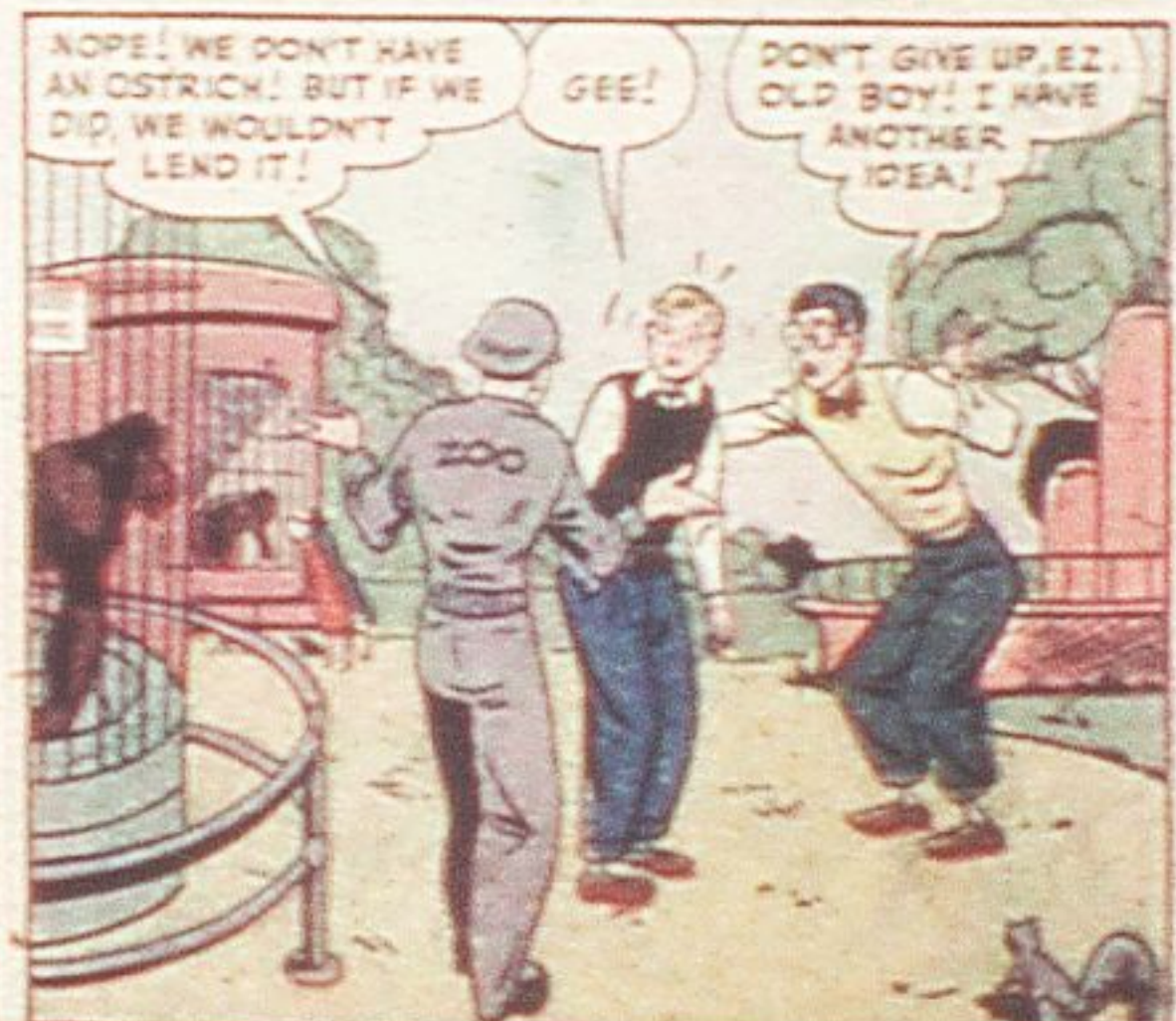
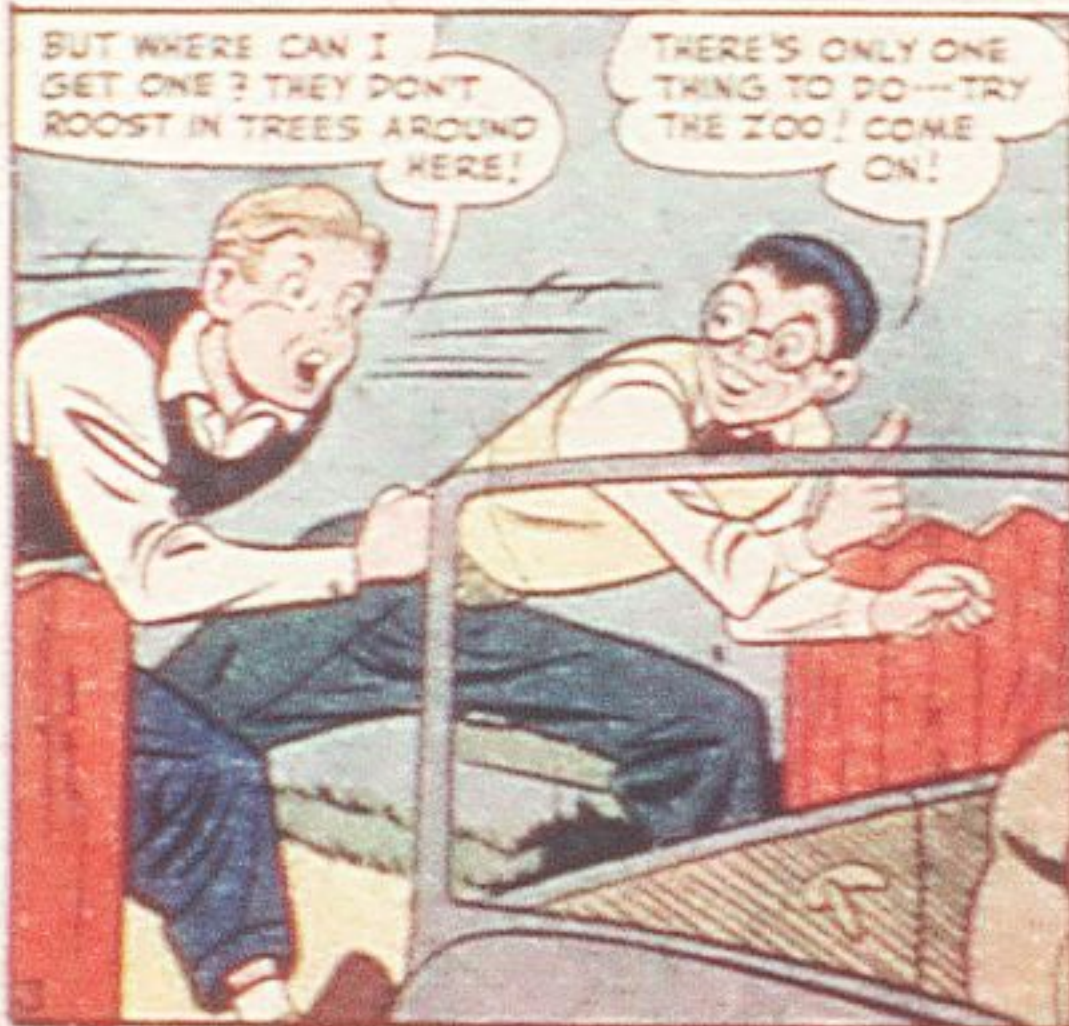
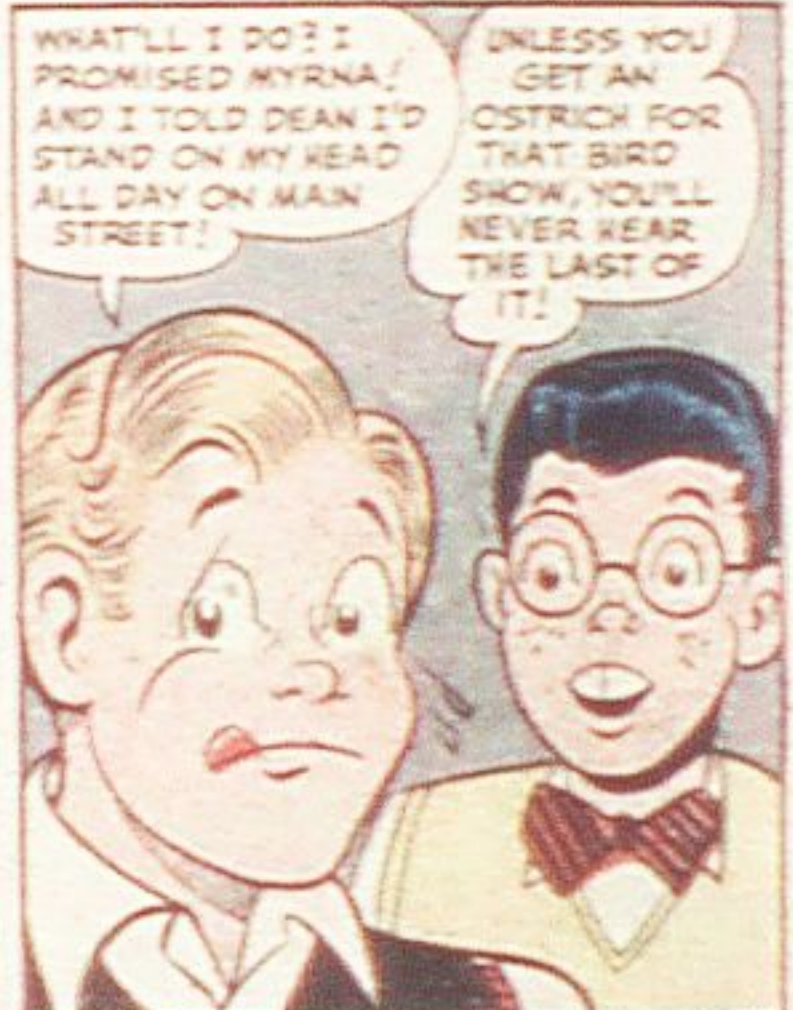
"Blackhawk," Chuck said then. "She flew into the smoke from The Bomb and the radiations destroyed her. But what broke her up with Grido? What happened to him?"

"I think she killed him," Blackhawk said softly. "But actually, fear killed them both. A year ago, when Grido began his march to power, I suspected his evil intent. The State Printer co-operated by printing our emblem on all state documents in a type of ink that would only become visible when the air was filled with atomic radiation. If he had not built The Bomb, he would never have seen it."

EZRA







MODERN COMICS

YOU WANT AN OSTRICH OUTFIT?
I DON'T HAVE THAT BUT COULD
YOU USE A NICE BEAR
COSTUME INSTEAD?

NO, NO
BEAR!
IT'S
GOTTA
BE AN
OSTRICH!

MS-MASKS
FAVORS

LET'S DRIVE OVER TO
CENTER CITY! IT'S
BIGGER AND MAYBE WE
CAN FIND SOMETHING!

IF WE DON'T,
ROLLO, MY FRIEND,
I AM A DEAD
DUCK!

HEY, LOOK AT THOSE SIGNS!
RACCOON --- ZEBRA --- MONKEY ---
OSTRICH --- STENKEL'S OIL
STATION!

A ROADSIDE
MENAGERIE!
MAYBE I'M NOT
LICKED AFTER
ALL!

STENKEL'S
ZOO

RACCOON-ZEBRA
MONKEY-OSTRICH

DON'T KNOW ABOUT LETTIN' YOU
TAKE OSCAR, BOYS! BUT I'M
JUST SETTIN' UP HERE AND NEED
LOTS OF WORK DONE! IF
YOU'D HELP ---

WE'LL DO IT,
MR. STENKEL!
ANYTHING TO
BORROW
OSCAR!

X-21
GAS

5¢

SO FOR FOUR DAYS ---
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO
TIRED IN MY LIFE!

ME, EITHER! BUT IT'S WORTH
IT TO KEEP MY PROMISE TO
MYRNA AND SHOW UP DEAN!

--- UNTIL SATURDAY ---

WE DID IT! IT WAS HARD
WORK BUT WE GOT OSCAR
FOR THE
BIRD
SHOW!

ROLLO, YOU'RE A REAL
PAL! NOTHING CAN GO
WRONG NOW!

AWK! THERE'S EZRA WITH AN OSTRICH! I'VE
GOT TO THINK OF SOME WAY TO COOK THAT
GUYS GOOSE AND I THINK I KNOW HOW! AN
OSTRICH WILL EAT
ANYTHING!





PLAY PIANO THE FIRST DAY... OR DON'T PAY!

Here's Your Chance to
BE POPULAR!



I'M CERTAINLY MISSING A LOT
OF FUN, AND DATES, TOO.
IF I COULD ONLY PLAY
THE PIANO THE WAY
BETTY DOES.
'WONDER HOW SHE
LEARNED SO FAST?
I'LL ASK HER THE
FIRST CHANCE I GET.



MARY, I NEVER TOOK A LESSON IN MY LIFE - BUT
NOW I CAN PLAY WELL, THANKS TO THE
AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR AND
THE DEAN ROSS SIMPLE ABC METHOD.
YOU OUGHT TO TRY IT!

IF IT'S AS EASY
AS YOU SAY AND
IT ONLY COSTS
\$1.98 I'LL SEND
FOR IT
RIGHT AWAY!



GLAD I TOOK BETTY'S ADVICE.
NOW I GET INVITED
EVERYWHERE. NO MORE
WALLFLOWER STUFF
FOR ME!

"I learned to play a song in 10
minutes."

-A.C.C. Washington

"Even if one never played a
note it is easy."

-C.C.H. New Hampshire

"Now I can play sheet music
beautifully."

-J.S. New York

Hundreds of thankful, en-
thusiastic letters like these
are in our files.

New, Patented AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR Guides Your Fingers

YOU, too, can play piano with BOTH hands, in no time at all! Thousands have learned to play this fast, easy way. With the amazing, new invention, the AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR there's really nothing to it. Before long you're playing songs everyone enjoys... from Hit Parade numbers and hymns to beautiful old ballads.

This is no trick method. You actually learn to read and play any sheet music. And, the patented AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR guides your fingers every note of the way. No

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